DEMOCRATIC
GERMAN REPORT

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WEST GERMAN CALL-UP

EAST GERMANY HAS CLEAR CONSCIENCE

The millionaires, the estate owners and the militarists in West Germany hate the German Democratic Republic. It is natural that they should hate us, for the working people in the German Democratic Republic have driven them out of their positions of power.

In our parliaments and assemblies there are no big bankers, no nazi war criminals, no millionaires; but on the other hand there are many men and women from the working class who have given their whole lives to the fight against the imperialisms of the Kaiser and Hitler.

We in the German Democratic Republic have a clear conscience, for no war monger can lift his head here.

We have a clear conscience, for our young people are being brought up in a spirit of friendship towards all nations and bitter hostility towards all racial theories.

We have a clear conscience, for in the German Democratic Republic a new era has begun in German history; a state of the workers and peasants has been created, and the young generation has a guarantee of peace, security and progress.

(From a speech by Acting Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht, November 25th 1953)

Deadline: January 1954

The West German Government has decided to change the Constitution in order to allow the introduction of military conscription.

On December 1st the four parties of Adenauer's government coalition reached agreement on the wording of a new version of Article 32 of the Constitution, which will in future read:

"The defence of the Federal Republic is a Federal responsibility... Conscription can be introduced by Federal law... The constitutional rights of members of the armed forces may be curtailed if defence requirements so demand."

Article 60 of the West German Constitution will be adapted so that the Federal President may in future appoint officers to the armed forces; Article 73 will be extended to give the Federal Government full authority over military matters and air raid precautions; and Article 87 will be changed to provide for the Wehrmacht administration.

Adenauer had hoped to push through the constitutional amendments before the end of 1953, but on American instructions he has postponed the necessary legislation until January 1954. His American advisers hope that the "atmosphere may then be more favourable for such a step".

Adenauer: "Just one word from you, Sir, and they will leap on her and defend her"
(From "Krokodil", Moscow)

FOUR-POINT PLAN FOR ALL-GERMAN TALKS

The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready at all times to discuss with the West German Government large and small differences which heighten tension and endanger the peace, Acting Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht announced in Berlin on November 25th.

"We are ready, today as in the past, to sit down round the conference table with representatives of West Germany to discuss all questions which can help the creation of German unity on a democratic basis, and serve to bring about the conclusion of a peace treaty," Walter Ulbricht stated.

He proposed that discussions could fruitfully be held on:

1. An expansion of trade between the two halves of Germany.

2. An easing of conditions for travel between the two halves of Germany.

3. The strength and armament of the police forces in both parts of Germany.

4. A Germany-wide campaign against militaristic propaganda, and encouragement of worth-while literature and art.

Here are fuller details of these proposals:

Trade Expansion

"Unemployment in West Germany could be considerably decreased by an increase in interzonal trade, and it would have a favourable influence upon the standard of living of the population in the whole country.

"In addition the Government of the German Democratic Republic is prepared to smooth the way for trade deals between West Germany and the countries of the democratic world market (Soviet Union, and the People's Democracies).

Easing Travel

"The question of interzonal travel is not simply a technical one: it is inextricably bound up with the 'cold war' and the militarist policy of aggression on the part of the western powers.

"The western occupation powers abolished the interzonal passes in order to make easier the aggressive attacks of the west German militarists on peaceful construction in the German Democratic Republic, in order to provide freedom of travel for murderers and spies.

"For this reason we have been forced to insist upon West German visitors obtaining a residence permit, for the protection of our own peaceful population.

"We are, however, ready at any time to open discussions with the authorities in the Federal Republic in order to attain really peaceful relations between the Germans in the two halves of the country.

Police Strength

"We have repeatedly emphasised our readiness to discuss with representatives of West Germany questions which would lead to a general easing of the situation, such as the question of the strength, armament, stationing and duties of the police.

"I repeat our readiness to take part in such discussion, which would demonstrate that there was no great difficulty in reaching agreement, if the West German representatives showed themselves ready to help decrease tension.

Militarist Propaganda

"The German people and the world note with alarm that West Germany is being flooded with books, newspapers and films filled with hate-propaganda for war and revenge.

"The old infamous nazi-militarist books are distributed again in mass editions under British and American patronage. Hitler's authors, the exponents of racial theories and aggressive war, such as Dwinger, Juenger, Hans Grimm and so on are all back at the old stand. They are supported by war criminals like Kesselring, whose works are celebrated in the press, and poison once again the minds of the youth, making them ready for a new war of revenge.

"We see the great danger of this development, and therefore make the following proposal:

"The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready to prepare, in negotiation with the representatives of West Germany, conditions for the free circulation throughout Germany of all German books, magazines, films and other artistic products. We make only one condition: no freedom for the manufacture and distribution of works which depict war as unavoidable, or which propagate hate against other nations.

"For this purpose we propose that an All-German Committee of the best known humanist writers, publishers, artists and scientists shall be established. This committee should have the right of deciding what works shall not be allowed. The Government of the German Democratic Republic pledges itself to respect the judgment of this body."

Anti-Semite in W. German Parliament

One of the new members of the West German Parliament, elected on September 6th, is Martin Elsner, a quiet-looking bespactacled member of the BHE, the Refugee Party.

In 1933 Herr Elsner was an Untersturmfuehrer of the SS, Hitler's black-uniformed guards, and was installed in office as district officer in Rosenberg, Upper Silesia, which now lies in Poland.

At the end of June 1933 he wrote a letter of dismissal to Franz Teschner, one of his subordinates in the district administration. Teschner had been badly beaten by nazi storm troopers a few days earlier. Here are some sentences from the letter:

"Your previous conduct has shown that you do not stand up for the national state. As advisor to the village priest you fought against the movement of national renaissance to the very last . . .

"Until very lately your daughter used to take walks with the Jew Schlesinger. When you went to make some purchases in the shop of the Jew Berg, and a storm trooper told you that Prussian officials should not support Jews, you told him to mind his own business."

E. GERMAN EXHIBIT IN CAIRO

The East German Chamber for Foreign Trade is planning a big industrial exhibition in Cairo, Egypt, in spring 1954. The exhibit, which will cover an area of about 5000 square yards, will include machine tools, machinery of all sorts, locomotives and motor vehicles, and optical equipment from the famed Zeiss works.

Spy Group Shadows Foreign Correspondents

The West German espionage organisation headed by former Hitler General Gustav von Gehlen shadows foreign correspondents working in West Berlin.

This fact has emerged from the cross examination of a former agent of the spy ring, who has been arrested by East German security authorities, and made a full confession.

The spy, Wolfgang Paul Hoeher, of 5 Adalbert Strasse, West Berlin, stated:

"In January 1951 I became an official member of the Gehlen secret service. This service is largely composed of intelligence officers of the (nazi) general staff, and former members of the Gestapo . . .

"At the end of 1951 I received information that the French High Commission intended to get into contact with the German Democratic Republic to hold discussions on the German problem. The Berlin correspondent of 'Le Monde,' Georges Penchenier, was charged by the French authorities with the task of establishing contact.

"I brought my agent Herbert Huttmann into contact with Penchenier, and charged him with discovering his activities. I dispatched the results of my investigations to the central office (of the Gehlen spy ring) in Karlsruhe, where great importance was attached to these reports . . .

"One of the documents confiscated when I was arrested was the copy of a report sent to the central office in Karlsruhe in February 1953, referring to an instruction No. 7045 dated December 18th 1952 sent out from central office. This instruction laid down reinforced investigation of French representatives in Berlin, particularly against Ravoux, the correspondent of the news agency 'Agence France Presse' in Berlin."

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The East Berlin Criminal Court has passed a sentence of nine years imprisonment on Manfred Dobbrick, a West Berlin spy and saboteur, captured red handed in East Berlin.

Evidence was given that Dobbrick had been leader of a gang which made murderous attacks upon People's Police, plundered state shops, and committed acts of arson against public buildings. On one occasion the gang tore down a memorial tablet, erected to the memory of anti-fascists murdered by the nazis, and took it back to West Berlin as a trophy.

"United Germany Will Not Threaten France"— Walter Ulbricht

The fear of some Frenchmen that a united Germany would be a threat to France was based on a misconception, Acting Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht declared in the People's Chamber of the German Democratic Republic on November 25th.

"Some deputies in the French National Assembly fear that a united Germany would be a militarist Germany," Walter Ulbricht stated.

"We do not share this view. The democratic forces of a united Germany will never again allow the arms kings, the militarists and the politicians who scream for revenge, to drive the German people down the path of war and aggression.

"The lovers of peace in West Germany, in France and in the world must realise that the working class, the peasants and all peaceable people in the German Democratic Republic will never retreat before the West German militarists.

"The future peace-loving and democratic Germany will establish friendly relations with France on the basis of national independence and full equality for the two states."

WANT A GRENADE FOR XMAS?

West German Firms Can Supply You

More than 400 firms in West Germany are turning out war material again, despite the absolute prohibition in the Potsdam Agreement, according to statistics which have recently "leaked" from a West German government department. Here is a short list of some of these firms, with the specialities which they are either already producing or for which they are soliciting orders:

Rifles, Machine-Guns, Handgrenades

Vereinigte Deutsche Metallwerke;
Waffenfabrik Walther, Ulm;
Zuenderwerke Bruen, Krefeld;
E. & F. Hoerster, Solingen;
Waffenfabrik Sauer & Sohn, Eckernfoerde;
Mauser-Werke GmbH, Cologne;
Engels & Wenke, Velbert;
Gewehrfabrik Ederle, Augsburg.

Phosphorus for Fire-bombs

Lonza-Werke, Waldshut, Baden;
Stickstoffduenger AG, Knappsack.

Dynamite, Gun-cotton

Dynamit AG Troisdorf;
Sueddeutsche Sprengstoffgesellschaft, Fuerth;
Zellstoff Fabrik, Waldhof;
Anorgana GmbH, Gendorf, Bavaria;
Stickstoffwerk Ikon, Castrop-Rauxel;
Dynamit Fabrik Schlebusch, Leverkusen.

Landmines, Ammunition

Mülmstedt & Rodenberg, Minden;
Genschow AG, Lippstadt;
Vereinigte Metallhalbzeugwerke, Nuremberg;
Adolf Thiess, Nuremberg.

Cartridge-filling Machines

Maschinenfabrik Boehmer, Minden;
Wollenberg, Hanover.

Camouflage-netting, Steel helmets

Bahm & Kampmann, Wuppertal;
Eckhard GmbH, Oberndorf;

Military Vehicles, Tanks and parts

Seibert Werke, Aschaffenburg;
Vereinigte Kugellagerfabriken AG, Schweinfurt;
Man-Werke, Nuremberg;
Opel-Werke, Ruesselsheim (General Motors);
Ford Werke AG, Cologne;
Borgward Werke, Bremen.

Aircraft parts, Airfield equipment

Firma Schmieding, Cologne;
Fallschirmbau Brueggemann, Frankfurt Main;
Kalichemie AG, Nienburg;
Bayerische Motorenwerke AG, Munich;
Daimler Benz AG, Stuttgart.

E-Boats, U-Boats and parts

Hitzler Werft, Regensburg;
Abeking & Rassmussen, Lemwerder;
Maschinenfabrik Hennig, Metzingen.

(From "Daily Worker" London)

PROFILE

COLONEL HEINZ —MURDERER

In the years after the first world war Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz was a member of one of the reactionary "Free Corps" which tried to continue the war on the eastern front. In 1922 he was a leading member of the fascist "Organisation Consul" and was involved in the murder of German Republican Foreign Minister Walter Rathenau and other crimes.

During the nazi period he was an important counter-espionage agent in the nazi general staff, and during the war Lieutnant Colonel of a special sabotage and murder organisation on the eastern front.

With such a record it is natural that he has a high position in the West Germany of today: in fact until November 1953 he was head of the Intelligence Branch of the "Blank Office," the "Office for Billeting Occupation Troops" as the camouflaged West German War Office is officially called.

Spy Chief

As chief of the West German Military Intelligence Department, Herr Heinz naturally lived in anonymity, disguised as "Michael Publishers" at 61 Bahnhof Strasse in Wiesbaden, American Zone.

But his intelligence service was not the only one operating in West Germany, and the inter-departmental disputes between the various spy groups led to Herr Heinz being put suddenly on the inactive list at the beginning of November by the West German Government.

This action brought his name into the public eye for the first time, and has enabled GERMAN REPORT to assemble a fairly clear biography.

Here is the portrait of Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz:

He served in the first world war as a young lieutenant.

In 1919 he became a member of the "Ehrhardt Brigade," composed mainly of young reactionary officers who were ready and willing to go on fighting. In the ranks of this formation, Heinz took part in the "Kapp Putsch" in 1920, when right-wing militarists attempted to overthrow the young German Republic.

"I took part in the various putsches and political actions of this period," Heinz stated proudly in an interview with the Hamburg magazine "Spiegel" on November 18th 1953.

In May 1921 he led a formation of the illegal fascist "Free Corps" in battles against Polish irregulars in Silesia. One of his brother officers described how the Free Corps leaders felt about this fight:

"This province lies like a wedge between Poland and Czechoslovakia: it lies there aggressively, and that is why we love it . . ."

(Ernst von Salomon, "Die Geaechteten," Rowohlt Verlag, Hamburg 1930, page 238.)

Fascists "Too Humane"

In the same book Ernst von Salomon describes on page 221 how he and Heinz had helped to "liquidate" a French officer of the occupation forces in Mainz at the beginning of 1921.

On page 281 he describes a conversation with Heinz in February 1922. A friend had described the "castor oil torture" which had just been introduced by the fascists in Italy.

"We found this method suitable, but it seemed to us too humane," writes von Salomon. "The conversation turned with great brutality to the various methods of killing to be used when dealing with traitors. Heinz gave bloodthirsty examples."

Liquidation

A few days later, members of Heinz's fascist group were putting their theories into practice. A former Lieutenant Erwin Wagner, who had been a member of Heinz's murder gang, was accused of treachery, and on March 6th 1922, Ernst von Salomon and two other members of the group tried to murder him, by shooting him, clubbing him, and throwing him into a lake.

He survived, and in 1927 his attackers were put on trial. One of them, named Schwing, stated in evidence that "Lieutenant Friedrich Wilhelm Heinz told me a terrible story about Wagner's treachery, and how necessary it was to get rid of him."

("Vossische Zeitung", Berlin, March 27th 1927)

At this period, Heinz was a leading member of the "Organisation Consul," a fascist underground group which had set itself the task of "purging public life of Jews and traitors."

On June 4th 1922 two members of the organisation attempted to murder leading Social Democrat Philipp Scheidemann, then Lord Mayor of Cassel. On December 6th 1922 the two assailants were sentenced to imprisonment. Heinz was arrested under suspicion of preparing the attack, but was released for lack of evidence.

(E. J. Gumbel, "Verraeter Verfallen der Feme", Berlin 1930, page 62)

On June 24th 1922 German Foreign Minister Walther Rathenau was murdered by members of Organisation Consul, including Heinz's close friends Ernst von Salomon and Erwin Kern. Heinz was suspected of complicity, but sufficient evidence was not found.

In 1924 Heinz was arrested again by the Frankfurt police because of his leading position in the "Wiking Bund," an extreme right-wing organisation which had been implicated in weapon smuggling and political murder. He was released on the intervention of General Reinhardt, commander of the Reichswehr in Stuttgart, who told the police that Heinz had been "acting in the national interest."

("Vossische Zeitung," Berlin, March 27th 1927)

Killers Sent Abroad

In 1925, Organisation Consul, in one of its last actions, sent two young German students to Moscow charged with the task of assassinating Stalin and other Soviet leaders; Heinz was suspected of standing behind the plot, but again no evidence was found. There were signs that the German police did not look very hard for the evidence.

In 1926, Heinz became "respectable" and took up the job of editing the "Stahlhelm," organ of the right-wing para-military organisation of the same name. He was simultaneously a member of the nazi party, and in 1928 was one of the leaders of the "northern group" in the party which tried to deprive Hitler of the leadership.

He published two books in 1930 and 1932 with the significant titles of "Dynamite," and "The Nation Attacks," dealing with "The epoch of soldierly nationalism in the years following the first world war."

(Heinz, quoted in "Spiegel" Hamburg, November 18th 1953.)

"From 1936 to 1941 I was section chief in the foreign counter-espionage department of the General Staff of the Wehrmacht... From 1941 to 1944 I was commander of the German Commando troops under the central command of Admiral Wilhelm Canaris." (Heinz, quoted in "Spiegel," Hamburg, November 18th 1953.)

This commando troop, which had the camouflage name "Einheit Brandenburg 800", "was largely made up of Balts and Germans from eastern Europe, who knew conditions in Poland and Russia. It was led by a counter-espionage officer, Lieutenant Colonel Heinz." (From the book "Canaris," by Karl Heinz Abshagen, Union Deutsche Verlagsgesellschaft, Stuttgart, 1952.)

When the war ended, Heinz immediately continued with his old profession, espionage.

"In May 1945 I was sent into the East Zone," he told the "Spiegel" (November 18th 1953.)

Heinz, who is nothing if not adaptable, immediately joined the Social Democratic Party, and managed to swindle his way into the position of village mayor in the little village of Pieskow 70 miles east of Berlin.

"He used his position in order to obtain vital information about Soviet plans and Soviet measures, which he passed on to interested quarters."

("Spiegel," Hamburg, November 18th 1953.)

In May 1946 he fled to West Berlin. He worked for a while for the Dutch intelligence service, then for a while as tip-off man for the American magazine "Time."

But better days were dawning, and soon after the foundation of the West German Government, Adenauer's first military adviser, General Count Schwerin, appointed Heinz to his post as head of the new intelligence department.

He is typical of the veteran militarists and fascists who occupy key positions in the West German military maschine today; the sort of men who will control the destinies of the soldiers of the whole of West Europe if the plans for a European Army are turned into reality.

German Folk Art in China

The East German State Folk-Song and Dance Ensemble left for a tour of China in December. A big exhibition of applied arts from the German Democratic Republic is at present on show in Peking.

NURSERY SCHOOLS —EAST & WEST

By Joan Becker

In an article which appeared in the London magazine "NURSERY WORLD" on October 29th under the headline "Kinderhort", Mrs. Mira Matthews describes a visit she paid to a kindergarten and hort (day nursery for school-age children) in Frankfurt in West Germany. She writes with sympathy and understanding but with considerable misgivings about the general state of things.

"These very small Germans sat uncannily quietly in their chairs... rather undersized, rather pale, and very much what one would connect with a vitamin-deficient diet. Asked whether there was any equivalent of our British belief in orange juice and cod-liver oil, I was answered with looks of utter amazement. These were children of poor parents! They paid the Kinderhort what they could afford, but they could none of them afford very much."

Mrs. Matthews mentions particularly the milk shortage: "Apparently the German milk is of such poor quality that few people drink it. The Americans have organised a special milk train (for themselves-ed.) which comes from Holland daily... I imagine the cream must be skimmed from the German milk to be sold at a high price, while the ordinary folk content themselves with the tinned variety."

She relates that educators in West Germany have the idea that large quantities of vitamins tend to produce badly-behaved children, but adds: "I think I prefer sturdy limbs and a bit of bad behaviour."

On this page we print a letter sent to the "NURSERY WORLD" by an English-born mother living in East Berlin who has two children attending a city Kinderhort.

Mira Matthews' article, "Kinderhort", which appeared in the "Nursery World" on October 29th, interested me very much.

I have been living for the last five years in the German Democratic Republic with my two small children, who have attended six kindergartens in all, some in big towns and some in the country. The somewhat melancholy picture which Mrs. Matthews gives of the Kinderhort in Frankfurt in West Germany is in striking contrast to my very considerable experience of kindergartens and horts in our Republic.

Probably the nicest of all the kindergartens my children have attended was in a Berlin suburb two years ago, a country house set in a large garden, attended by about forty small children. The food was particularly good here, because they were able to cook in their own kitchen. The director was a charming young woman who had just had a baby herself and who had a real gift with small children. They were well provided with all kinds of toys and educational apparatus, but spent a great deal of time out of doors, in the garden, in the sand-pit, on the swings and see-saw, going for walks in the wood or paddling in the near-by swimming-pool.

My two are now in a very large combined kindergarten and hort in the middle of Berlin, containing 180 children between the ages of three and ten, which is open from 6 am till 7 pm weekdays and from 6 am till 3 pm on Saturdays. (For the ten to fourteen-year-olds there is a Kinderhort in the school itself.) The children are divided into ten groups, each with its "auntie". In addition to the ten group aunties, there are four part-time helpers for the early and late hours, four helpers in the kitchen and the director.

For all big city kindergartens there is only one condition of attendance — that the child's mother is working. In some country districts there is also accomodation for some children of mothers with very big families who do not go out to work. A small charge — 15 pfennigs per day (the cost of two cigarettes), which every working mother can well afford — is made for the midday meal, which comes from the city communal kitchens. The food is good, varied and plentiful — the children can take three helpings if they like. This week, for example, meat soup with rice, beef with potatoes and gravy, haricot beans with pork, potato soup with sausage, vegetable and meat stew and rice pudding were on the menu. With their mid-morning sandwiches and afternoon rolls or buns they also get the malt coffee which Mrs. Matthews mentions. I also find it undrinkable, but people have always drunk it in Germany and in the Scandinavian count-

ries, and the chilren drink it with gusto. They also get cocoa sometimes and in the summer mostly fruit juice — apple, cherry and blackcurrant juice are their favourites. For dessert they get bottled fruit and fresh fruit in season.

The milk question is not so serious with us, because the ration, half a litre (nearly a pint) daily up to six years and quarter of a litre daily up to nine years, is cheap, and most people can afford to buy some extra off-the-ration milk, which has been much reduced in price. Dried full milk has also been considerably reduced in price. The smaller children give up a quarter-litre coupon daily to the kindergarten so that they can drink hot milk with their mid-morning sandwiches.

Here in the democratic sector of Berlin and in the German Democratic Republic the social or financial position of the parents has no connection with the provision of vitamins for the children; vitamin B with malt, Glucose, vitamin C tablets and a honey and milk preparation are supplied. Vigantol, the synthetic equivalent of cod-liver oil, is obtainable free through the children's clinics. Medical and dental care is of course also free.

It was especially interesting for me to see the way in which the last-year kindergarten children were helped over the big changes as they started school in September. My little son belongs to this group. Their "auntie", who is a particularly gifted young woman, moved up with them instead of taking over another kindergarten group. She takes them to school at 8 o'clock every morning and fetches them again at ten, sees that they eat their mid-morning sandwiches, then helps them with their homework, which takes about an hour. This brings them about to 12 o'clock dinner. The children help with setting and clearing away the tables and then play quietly for an hour, as they don't sleep any more in the afternoon. Then "Irmchen" (that's her pet name) takes them for a walk, or about once a week to the children's cinema, puppet theatre, fairy-story afternoon in the near-by House of Friendship with the Soviet Union, to visit the Berlin bears, to the circus, or to some interesting exhibition. Under her care the children also sing and dance and do gymnastics and handwork.

Last Easter she and another Hortnerin took a group of about fifteen children from six to ten years old, among them my two, to the mountains in Thuringia for a week, where they stayed in a Youth Hostel which had been visited by an older group during the Christmas holidays. In May to June she and two other "aunties" took a group of 24 three-to six-year-olds, including my son, to the Baltic coast for three weeks. They came back sunburnt and fat, for they were lucky with the weather, and what surprised me most, without a pile of dirty clothes! Everything was neatly folded and only one change of underclothing dirty. For these trips there was only the railway fare to pay. The children took their ration cards with them and the rest was provided out of city funds.

Every excuse for a party is taken; they have big Christmas partics, with wonderful Christmas trees and really worthwhile presents, as well as cakes, fruit, nuts and chocolates to eat. St. Valentine's has to be celebrated with fancy dress and the children begin to talk about it as soon as Christmas is over. At Easter the Easter rabbit hides coloured hard-boiled and chocolate and marzipan eggs all over the building.

But the summer holidays are really something special. These are arranged with special consideration for those children who don't get away with their parents or to one of the very many children's holiday homes run by the government, the social insurance, trade union organisations of factories and other institutions. A tremendous effort is made in all big towns to get these children out into the fresh air. For the Berlin children day camps are set up on the beaches of the many little lakes around the city and special coaches on the trains and special buses bring the children out and home again in the evening. A good mid-day meal and in-between snacks with fruit and fruit-juice and facilities for afternoon naps for small children from 3 to six are provided. Hundreds of women give voluntary help in looking after the children and cooking during this holiday action, which runs in two three-week shifts from about July 8th to the last week in August. A very small charge is made, 3 marks for three weeks, five and a half days in the weeks. In this way thousands of children have the advantage of a summer holiday while their mothers are at work. They can face the somewhat dreary and long-drawn-out Berlin winter with renewed vigour.

In our kindergartens one doesn't see children sitting "uncannily quietly in their chairs", and I'm sure Mrs. Matthews is right when she associates this quietness with a lack of vitamins, but there is also another aspect to this. The main effort here in the German Democratic Republic is directed towards producing active, independent little citizens, who will be able to think up new and better ways of doing things and who will want to fight against old-fashioned, out-moded ideas. In West Germany the main effort is at present being directed towards remilitarisation. Nobody wants independent young people bursting with energy and with minds of their own. They want "gehorsame, wohlerzogene" (obedient, well brought up) children, who do what they're told and don't ask too many questions.

Yours sincerely,
Joan Becker.

KESSELRING HAS A NERVE!

By Group Captain Hugh Dundas, R. A. F.

This book of Kesselring's frightens me. ("The Memoirs of Field Marshal Kesselring," Kimber, London, 25 shillings.) It is not boastful, it does not glorify Hitler; it contains many tributes to the Allies. On the surface it is all sweet reasonableness.

It frightens me because it raises again a terrifying myth; that German fighting men are in themselves invincible.

No German boy whose father, or uncle, or brother, fell in the war, could read this book without excitement. It is a glorification of those who fought in vain, and a lament that their courage should have been spent without reward.

They will soon pick up the words which go with this kind of martial music: "Next time, next time, next time."

("Daily Express," London, November 16th 1953.)

(Militaristic books like that reviewed above are of course banned in East Germany, and the Government of the German Democratic Republic, as we report on another page, has proposed that joint steps should be taken by Governments of both halves of Germany to ban them throughout the country.)

Refugee?

A sample of the "hundreds of political refugees reaching West Berlin" came to light in the West Berlin Criminal court on November 26th, when "refugee" Friedel Oellermann was sent to prison for five months for stealing goods from a market stall.

Evidence was given that Frau Oellermann had come to Berlin in June, and been registered as a "political refugee" and granted public assistance. She actually continued to live with her husband in East Germany, however, just travelling to Berlin to draw her weekly dole and to indulge in shop-lifting.

Fascist "Iron Broom"

The "German iron broom must sweep out Europe again, so that everyone knows we are back in circulation," an anonymous speaker told a meeting of the neo-fascist German Party held in the Manteuffel Strasse, American Sector of West Berlin, on November 25th.

When a Norwegian attending the meeting protested at some of the other fascist utterances, he was shouted down, and the speaker said: "When we occupy Norway again, you'll laugh on the other sides of your faces."

Winter Sports

All preparations for the biggest winter-sport season yet have been completed in the mountain districts of East Germany. The best hotels in all resorts are reserved for factory workers, and trade union subsidies put winter sports holidays within the grasp of all.

Democratic
GERMAN REPORT

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Germany.

SPIKE THAT LIE!

The Editor
The Evening News,
London.

Berlin
November 30th 1953

Sir,

A German journalist recently visited London, and reported his visit in his newspaper. Here are some of his impressions:

"Public buildings are hung with the black and yellow flags of the United Monarchy... You pass by the ruins of the British Foreign Office... Past the Marble Erch (sic) which used to stand at the end of Oxford Street... We see a picture of Charchill (sic)..."

You will surely join me, Sir, in being indignant at such faulty observation and bad reporting.

However, this "German journalist" is an invention of mine, based very closely upon the pattern set by the "Evening News" on November 23rd. The only difference is that your article is by a British journalist, John Arlott, and purports to describe a visit to East Berlin.

Here are a few extracts from Mr Arlott's article, with my comments:

"The vast square... is hung with green and white banners of the German People's Republic."

(The colours of the German Democratic Republic are black-red-gold.)

"Now, by way of the ruins of Goebbels' headquarters..."

(Goebbels' old propaganda ministry is one of the few buildings in central Berlin not badly damaged, and now houses the offices of the National Council.)

"...to the Brandenberger Tor which... used to give on to the Unter den Linden."

(Neither the Brandenburger Tor, nor the street have been moved.)

"...the giant portraits of Grotewahl..."

(The Prime Minister of East Germany is named Grotewohl.)

I have purposely confined myself in the above extracts to matters of hard fact, easily verified by the use of good reference books. Here are a few more of Mr Arlott's observations on "life behind the iron curtain" which appear worthy of comment.

"The few privates cars you see are being driven quickly and purposefully."

(In contrast to the West, I suppose, where cars are all driven listlessly.)

"Great new factories, the owner of most of them, according to the names on the walls, one J. V. Stalin."

(Exactly one Berlin factory bears the name J. V. Stalin; and does Prince Albert "own" the Albert Hall?)

"The Embassies and great houses still shattered from the hand grenades playfully thrown through their windows by Zhukov's men as they marched in."

(I hope Mr Arlott is ashamed of writing this sentence, if of nothing else. If you look up your own files you will see that the Red Army, as an ally of the British, had to fight every inch of its way through Berlin, and lost many thousands of brave men. There was nothing playful about it.)

I expect that you will find this letter too long for your columns: but I, and many others of your readers, would be very glad to have an explanation from Mr Arlott at least of the point about the flags. I cannot remember ever seeing white and green banners flown here: perhaps Mr Arlott was really visiting another city?

I am, etc,
John Peet

(The same story appeared in the "Liverpool Echo" on November 26th and probably in other papers. "Liverpool Echo" sub-editors at least removed the spelling mistakes.)

* * *

Editor,
The Manchester Guardian,
Manchester, England

Berlin
November 28th 1953

Dear Sir,

On November 19th the "Manchester Guardian" printed a map of the German Democratic Republic. 50 towns were named on the map. Eight of the names were misspelled.

Is this a record?

I am etc.
John Peet

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

In recent numbers of GERMAN REPORT we have given considerable space to biographical notes about some of the veteran nazis and other assorted bad hats in the West German Cabinet.

In the issues dated October 30th and November 13th we printed details about Waldemar Kraft, Chairman of the West German Refugee Party, and Minister without Portfolio in Adenauer's Government.

Fascist Officer

The information we gave can be summed up as follows:

Kraft was officer in the fascist "Frei Korps" which fought against Poland in Upper Silesia in 1919; between the wars he was leader of the "Germanic Peasants in Poland," an organisation which helped to undermine the Polish state and prepare for the nazi invasion in 1939; on November 13th 1939 he joined Hitler's black-uniformed SS, with membership number 347,148, and held the rank of major in the organisation; during the war he worked as member of the "Nationalities Section" of the Reich Main Security Office, the co-ordinating office for the whole framework of nazi espionage and the racial extermination programme; in the course of this work he committed numerous war crimes in occupied Poland.

Any Corrections?

In accordance with our policy of trying to ensure accuracy, we sent marked copies of the biographical notes to Herr Waldemar Kraft in Bonn, asking him for corrections, if he had any.

And in reply we received a most interesting letter from Josef Strauch, Secretary of the Refugee Party, of which Herr Kraft is chairman.

The letter stated:

"We note that your REPORT was the source of articles in the foreign press which made an unpleasant impression upon us. You give a completely distorted picture of the personality of the new minister, chairman of the fourth largest party in the Federal parliament.

"The biographical notice which you published is not only incomplete and inadequate, but must in fact be regarded as a one-sided attack. If you should have the intention of correcting the biography of the Federal Minister in one of your next numbers, we place at your disposal a biography of the Minister, containing all necessary data."

The interesting thing about the letter is, of course, that although it charges us with "giving a distorted picture" and being "incomplete and inadequate" it does not attempt to answer or deny a single one of the very serious charges which we made.

...BUT

"Dr Norman Salit, President of the Synagogue Council of America,... who returned Monday from a month's visit to W. Germany (West)... said there was no overt anti-semitism in Germany but that German employers would not hire Jews."

New York Times, November 18th 1953

The biography of Herr Kraft, sent to us from Bonn, is full of interesting details about his honorary membership of the board of a farmers' bank, but carefully avoids any mention of his SS membership, his membership of the nazi party (membership book number 9,428,904), his war crimes and so on.

So here are some definite questions for Herr Kraft to answer: Were you Hauptsturmfuehrer (Major) in the SS?

Did you work for the Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Main Security Office)?

Have you, at any time since the war, made a public statement dissociating yourself from the activities of the SS and the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, both of which were declared criminal organisations at the Nuremberg Trials?

We shall await your answers with the very greatest interest.

Just to brush up your memory, here is what the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg (Lord Justice Lawrence, Great Britain; Mr. Francis Biddle, USA; Major General Nikichenko, Soviet Union; and Professor Donnedieu de Vabre, France) had to say about these organisations, in their verdict delivered on September 30th 1946:

"The SS was utilised for purposes which are criminal under the charter, involving the persecution and execution of Jews, brutalities and killings in concentration camps, excesses in the administration of occupied territories, the administration of the slave labour programme, and the mistreatment and murder of prisoners of war. The Tribunal declares to be criminal the group composed of those persons who had been officially accepted members of the SS..."

"The Gestapo... was used for purposes which were criminal under the charter, involving the persecution and extermination of Jews, etc.... In dealing with the Gestapo the Tribunal includes all executive and administrative officials of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt..."

Teachers on Leave

What do British teachers do when they go on holiday? The question is prompted by an article in the "Times Educational Supplement," London, dated November 13th, dealing with Berlin as a place teachers should visit when on leave.

The anonymous writer makes the usual inane remarks about "strange silence and deadness on the streets" of East Berlin, and then goes on to give a warning:

"But it is as well not to engage in any proceedings (in East Berlin) that might make one noticeable, as authority in the east ist apt to be arbitrary and unpredictable."

Since reading this sentence I have strange visions of grey-flannelled mathematics masters standing on their heads in Paris streets, while botany mistresses in tweedy costumes play bagpipes in the Roman forum.

Only in East Berlin do they behave primly, bravely curbing their tendency to break into a can-can at any moment, so as not to arouse the wrath of "arbitrary and unpredictable" authority.

* * *

"The Military Command of the Russian Zone of Germany has banned Christmas trees."

„Daily Telegraph, London, December 4th 1953

What can those green things be that are on sale everywhere in East Berlin and Germany?

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